



## **MarTREC Workforce Development Project Exposure to STEM—Diversity in Maritime Transportation**



Students from Little Rock Central High School visited Murray Lock and Dam for a Lock and Dam tour visit on April 2, 2019. Murray Lock and Dam, formerly identified as Lock and Dam Number 7 along the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System, is located next to Big Dam Bridge in Little Rock, Arkansas. The tour was guided by Eric Gillespie, the Lock Master for the Murray Lock and Dam. The students had the opportunity to walk across the gates of the lock, tour the control room, and observe the operation of the Lock and Dam. During the tour the lock pool was raised and lowered, the gates were opened and closed, and the tow system was explained. Prior to the tour Dr. Rick Coffman and graduate student Anh Tran explained the need for the lock and dam system and encouraged students to pursue careers in the STEM fields. Following the tour the students enjoyed a picnic next to the Murray Lock and Dam in La Harpe View Park before returning to school.